

Letter from the Mayor



Quarterly Report to the Citizens

Dear Friends,

Over a number of years the past City Councils have routinely discussed goals for the city and staff concerning projects and programs to benefit all of us. The present council has continued that tradition knowing that even more is expected of us. So, our goals have been carefully adopted, continually reviewed and, in some cases, goals have been checked off the list because we have accomplished the tasks.

One goal that we set for this year dealt with the undergrounding of our utility lines from arch to arch, within the city. There has been several months of continuous negotiations with our neighbors, Colorado Springs Utility and their staff, and we are close to signing off officially on this franchise agreement that covers the next two decades. The initial phase will be the downtown project starting within a few short weeks with the cost coming out of our eight percent franchise fee that the utilities division pays our city. Six percent will be retained for the undergrounding project by utilities plus a fifty percent

policy they provide toward the work project. The City receives less revenue from our franchise agreement but we now have a definite plan to make undergrounding happen, and that this council and future councils can implement without a tax increase to residents. What we have in place if the council adopts the franchise agreement is a "pay as you go" electric system for the entire city along Manitou Avenue.

Our relationship with utilities is an example of the good neighbor policy that I believe in and stress to our staff and council members. A community of our size cannot be economically healthy and vibrant, make significant infrastructure improvements, and gain financial stability without assistance from others around us.

Happy summer days!

Sincerely,
Marcy Morrison
Mayor

To find out what is happening in Manitou Springs you are welcome to attend City Council meetings the first and third Tuesday of every month, beginning at 7 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall, 606 Manitou Avenue.

You are also welcome to volunteer in your city government by becoming a member of a board or commission.

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CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS

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THREE CHEERS FOR THE MANITOU TEAM!

By Fred Burmont, *City Administrator*

Every day we enjoy the results of work done by our City of Manitou Springs “team.” When you have a picnic in one of our parks, take a swim in our public pool or browse for a book in our Library you are seeing some of their work. And we all sleep better knowing there are well-trained Fire and Police departments on duty.

But other things our staff does are not so apparent. For this quarterly newsletter, I wanted to recognize each member of the *Manitou Team* and a few of the many things they do:

When we have a medical emergency or a fire, we call 911. Our call is answered, 24 hours a day, seven days a week (“24/7”), in our Communications Center by Jennifer Bryant, Ken Crook, Ashley Farrow, Molly Frazier, Kim Perkins, Scott Simmons, Frances Zachareas, or our lead Dispatcher, Amanda Ghysels. Under the supervision of our Police Sergeant, James Marion, they also answer our non-emergency lines to relay requests for other City services like snow plowing, potholes, or errant animals.

Our Fire Department responds 24/7 to the medical and fire emergency calls. We have six full-time Emergency Medical Technicians or Paramedics on our staff, consisting of Jim Buchanan, Brad Dorris, Chi Krantz, Larry Mitchell, and Ted Saenz, under the supervision of our Fire Captain, Randy Perkins. Manitou has several part-time firefighters, Tim Krantz, Linda Radice and Mike Willie, and 40 unpaid, volunteer firefighters who are called out for fires and community events by our part-time Fire Chief, Keith Buckmiller.

Under the leadership of MaryJo Smith, our Chief of Police, and Robert Swain, our Police Lieutenant, Manitou’s 10 police officers respond to the other emergency calls and a number of non-emergency calls—also 24/7. With the addition of several new recruits sworn in July 2, our police force now consists of Marilyn Garcia, Mark Gillis, Orian Hendrickson, Chad Mininger, Eric Oliver, Miguel Otero, Alex Powers, Jerry Spanks and Caleb Vance. They are supervised by our shift Sergeants, James Hopkins, James Marion (who is also our Detective), and Rick Williams and our Corporal, Rob McPherson. Finally, Dawn Knox does our parking enforcement and Janie Nuci, our Police Clerk, assists the entire department, including our new volunteer Police Reserves.

Perhaps less obvious, but equally necessary, are the emergency calls fielded by our Public Services Department. Non-emergency calls are answered by the Public Services Clerk, Mary Ellen Montgomery — who performs the many administrative functions for the entire department. The myriad of services performed by this department are under the good leadership of John “Kelly” McMinn, our Director of Public Services.

Water line breaks or sewer main backups (invariably occurring in the middle of the night or on weekends) are

repaired by Tim Buckley, Ron Huery, Robert “Okie” Rutherford, Gerald “Star” Starling, or Richard Thomas. The clean water we drink is due to the expertise of our Treatment Plant Operator, Kirk Greasby.

Street repairs, street cleaning, grass mowing, trash removal, snowplowing, building maintenance and maintaining our 85 parks or other City properties are the result of hard work by Ryan Keene, Rick Ruggles, Ron Shinault, Dennis Strackbein, John Todd, Brad Walters, and Jim White. The department also has four temporary summer workers, Dan Ausec, Isaac Brisk, James Crothers and Jacob Suazo. The flowers, shrubs and trees we see in our parks have been planned and maintained by our Master Gardener, Susan Guynn, and our clean City Hall offices, Library and public park facilities reflect the conscience work of Don Brewster and Raul Maynez.

Manitou is also fortunate to have a very comprehensive swimming and fitness program for our citizens and visitors. The operation of the City Aquatics Center is the responsibility of our Aquatics Director, Jackie Clark, assisted by Chris Freedman and Gayle Garvey. They have a staff of 22 part-time lifeguards, instructors and cashiers.

Under the direction of our Librarian, Linda Tuttle-Shaw, our library staff, consisting of Diane McRae and Nancy Steen, puts on a number of reading programs for children and adults. The Library is open for business six days a week, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Here at City Hall, our Finance Department staff, comprised of Rebecca Davis, Joyce Jones and Lenore Knox, prepares water bills and other billings, collects payments, issues business licenses, prepares payrolls and vendor payments and maintains the City’s budget and accounting records for 18 legal funds or related entities. Mike Leslie, our Director of Finance, oversees the Finance Staff and is coordinating the Downtown Revitalization Project Management Group, consisting of the City’s consultants, other agencies and representatives of each of the City’s boards and commissions.

Working with the public to explain and enforce the City’s development, zoning and building codes is the responsibility of Michelle Anthony, Cheri Mills and Walt Perkins under the leadership of Todd Liming, our Director of Community Development.

And ...way back here in City Hall is our City Attorney, Alan Jensen, and our City Clerk, Carol Lawson. They prepare, record, and maintain the City Council ordinances and resolutions that form the basis of policies and procedures followed by all of our departments.

To all of these people who serve all of us everyday—and to our many unpaid volunteers and those who serve on City boards and commissions—I want to say a heart-felt, “thank you for a job well done!”

Finance Department

By Mike Leslie, *Finance Director*

Earlier this year the City Council adopted the “Top Ten Goals” for the 2004. The Finance Department continues to be actively involved in several of these, as follows:

In regard to the # 2 goal, Implement the Manitou Master Plan and Avenue Plan. During this second quarter we completed a significant part of the Manitou Avenue Master Plan adopted by City Council in 1998 — namely, the resurfacing and striping to reduce Manitou Avenue from four lanes to three. While some people apparently do not agree with the decision to put Manitou Avenue on a “road diet,” the overwhelming majority of opinions we have heard is that the 3-lane design has calmed (slowed) traffic in the downtown area—which was one of the goals of the plan.

We continue to hold Project Management Group meetings (consisting of City staff, Nolte Associates, Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU), the Manitou Springs Economic Development Commission (EDC), the Manitou Spring Business Improvement District (BID), the Manitou Springs Chamber of Commerce, the Manitou Springs Metro District and representatives from each of the City boards and commissions, to discuss the project. By consensus, the group has made decisions on street lighting, street furniture, and preliminary design elements of the project. Summaries of these bi-weekly meetings are included in the “Springs Ahead” link to the City’s new web site, www.manitousprings-co.gov.

The # 4 goal is to Increase revenues for businesses and for the City. During June we received the April retail sales tax statistics and collections from the Colorado Department of Revenue. There is a 60-day lag time from the date of sale until the sales are reported to the City.

While the month of April was essentially the same as last year (up .7 percent), we noted that 2004 taxable sales, compared to 2003, were up 4.1 percent for the year. Sales by “in-city” businesses were up 4.0 percent for the month and up 4.6 percent for the year. This is the fourth month in a row that our sales have been greater than last year.

Our year-to-date Lodging and Camping taxes collected though June 30 are up 8.7 percent (\$37,078) compared to \$34,093) and our Amusement Tax is up 11.5 percent (\$44,236 compared to \$39,658) as of June 30 of last year.

We continue to work with the EDC, the BID, the Chamber of Commerce and Pikes Peak Area Attractions to attract more first-time visitors and repeat visitors to the City, develop programs to help make visitors feel more comfortable in the public areas and create programs to enhance the economy.

As a step to accomplishing the # 5 goal to Underground Overhead Utilities along Manitou Avenue from East Arch to West Arch, during this quarter we met a number of times with representatives of CSU to discuss the renewal of the electric and gas utility franchises. These discussions were incorporated into a draft Franchise Ordinance which was reviewed with City Council at their work session held June 29. The ordinance was adopted on first reading July 6 and will be considered for second reading and final adoption at the July 20 regular meeting of Council.

This 20-year franchise provides that CSU will pay 50 percent of the cost of undergrounding the electric system infrastructure. The City will be responsible for the other 50 percent, along with costs of new streetlights and “secondary” connections from the transformers to the existing customers. The agreement requires CSU to continue payment of an 8 percent franchise fee on sales of electricity in Manitou Springs—but payable 2 percent in cash and 6 percent in the form of “in-kind” costs to pay the City’s share of the undergrounding costs.

The franchise agreement anticipates that the undergrounding will start in 2004 with the downtown business area, along Manitou Avenue and Canon Avenue, as the downtown improvements are completed (scheduled to be done by 2009). Future City Councils will have the right, but not the obligation, to request a series of additional “pay-as-you-go” phases to be paid from the 6 percent in-kind fee. Therefore, without an increase in City taxes or debt, this proposed agreement represents an opportunity to underground the electric utility lines and poles “along Manitou Avenue from east arch to west arch.”

It should be noted that the proposed franchise also specifies that the 8 percent franchise fee must be part of the Manitou Springs basic tariff rates (not a surcharge) and cannot be greater than the basic electric and gas tariff rates paid by Colorado Springs customers.

Fire Department—Fire Forum

By Keith Buckmiller, *Fire Chief*

Greetings from your fire department, we hope you enjoyed the fire works this year. The recent rains leading up to the 4th, and residual humidity made our job on Red Mountain much easier. We want to thank the Manitou Merchants that supported this activity as well as all those who contributed to the fire truck collection effort. All the monies collected this year will be used for the fireworks show next year, weather permitting.

Speaking of weather, you may have noticed there are wild fires burning around the state. This is due to dry conditions. Some areas missed out on the rains and humidity we were fortunate to have experienced up to and over July 4th. Please take the additional safety measures around your home and worksite to properly dispose of cigarettes and BBQ coals.

Your fire department is having a birthday, 125 years and counting. The volunteer firefighters are working on the logistics for a celebration. We hope to



have citywide inclusion and participation and we would hope that you would join us.

If you have ever thought of becoming a firefighter, now is the time. Applications are available at the fire station. Fill one out and join us the last Tuesday night of the month while we conduct our business meeting. If you have any questions, please visit our web site <http://www.manitousprings-co.gov> or you can direct your questions to me at mskzb@ci.manitou-springs.co.us. We provide all the training. We look forward to seeing you.

In closing, I want to once again thank you for your support. This year your donations have enabled us to purchase a cardiac monitor and have one of the best fireworks demonstrations in the state. In reality, Manitou Springs is only 6 square miles, but it is filled with generous and caring neighbors, some of which are serving on your fire department. Neighbors serving neighbors, and I would not have it any other way.

Manitou's Mineral Springs

To date, the Mineral Springs Foundation, in cooperation with the City of Manitou Springs, private individuals and numerous organizations have restored a number of the springs to their original splendor. The waters are available free to the public. People fill cups

from their favorite spring. Walking tours called "Springsabouts" are held and maps are available for those who prefer to tour the springs at their own pace. You can pick up a map from the Chamber of Commerce.

City Telephone Numbers

New Web Address.....	www.manitousprings-co.gov
Accounts Payable	685-2565
Administration.....	685-5596
City Clerk	685-2554
Code Enforcement	685-2543
Finance Department	685-5481
Fire Dept. (non emergency).....	685-1444

Hall Rental Information	685-2565
Library	685-5206
Planning Department.....	685-4398
Police Dept. (non emergency).....	685-5407
Public Services	685-2573
Swimming Pool.....	685-9735
Water Billing.....	685-2579

Library

By Linda Tuttle-Shaw, *Library Director*

Discover New Trails@Your Library!

Our Summer Reading Program is in full swing, but it's not too late to get in on the fun! This year's theme is "Discover New Trails@Your Library." Upcoming programs take place Fridays from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.:

Friday July 16: "Create Your Own Trail Mix"

Friday July 23: "Travel by Water – Pool Party!!"

Our end-of-program pool party will feature refreshments and prize drawings for Summer Reading Program participants. Call the Library at 685-5206 for registration and further information.

Upcoming Toddler Story times

Drop-in Toddler Story time is offered each Thursday at 10:00 a.m.:



July 22: Come Climb a Tree With Me

July 29: Dianne's Favorites

Please note: There will be no Story time programs in August.

We will resume our regular Thursday morning schedule in September:

September 2: Teddy Bear Time

September 9: Nursery Rhyme Time

September 16: Growing Vegetable Soup

September 23: Dr. Seuss Stories

September 30: Watch the Leaves Fall

Book Groups

Our Nonfiction Book Group meets the third Monday of each month at 7:00; anyone who has read the book is welcome to attend:

(No July Book Group)

August 5: Like Water for Chocolate: A Novel in Monthly Installments with Recipes, Romances and Home Remedies, by Laura Esquivel

Our Fiction Book Group meets the first Thursday of each month at 7:00; anyone who has read the book is welcome to attend:

(No July Book Group)

August 16: Shark Dialogues, by Kiana Davenport

Book Sale!

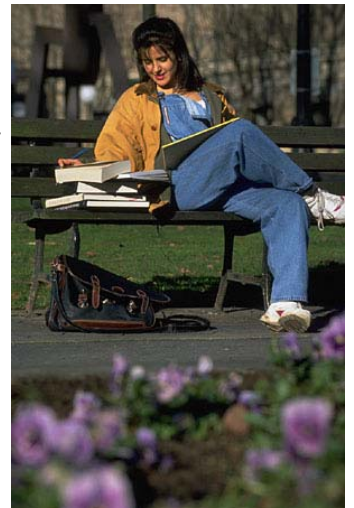
Our annual book sale will be held over Labor Day Weekend at the Common-wheel Arts Festival, September 4 and 5. Book donations are always welcome; proceeds from book sales go to benefit the Library. Hardcover generally sell for \$1.00, paperbacks for 50 cents. We have a large inventory of books to sell this year, so come by and "check us out!"

Make a Difference in the Life of a Child

Our Reading Friends program is in need of a few volunteers who are willing to donate an hour of time each week, from 3:00 – 4:00 on either Tuesdays or Thursdays during the school year. This program identifies children who need extra help with reading, and pairs them with adult reading "friends" for an hour of one-on-one reading and mentoring. This is truly a chance to make a significant difference in the life of a child; it is very rewarding to witness the improvements these children make from September to May. Call the Library at 685-5206 for more information.

New Billing Procedure for Lost/Unreturned Library Materials

You can't beat the cost of checking out a book, video, DVD, or other material from the Library -- FREE! However, when materials aren't brought back, part of our book budget has to be spent on replacement costs. To help defray these costs, we have instituted a new billing procedure through the City for lost/unreturned library materials. Please call the Library at 685-5206 with any questions.



Planning Department

By Todd Liming, *Planning Director*

The Planning Department has been working on a wide variety of planning and development projects over the past quarter and the status of several projects is worth noting.

Spa Building

Planning staff has continued to meet with the consultant team for the group that has an option to purchase the Historic Spa Building. Earlier this spring, we received applications for a Major Development, a Parking Variance and a Material Change of Appearance Certification to support the renovation of the Spa Building. At the applicant's request, these applications are now scheduled to be presented at the Historic Preservation Commission and the Planning Commission as early as the August or September meetings due to the anticipated timing of the EIS, landscape plan and amended architectural plans. The proposal continues to involve a mixed-use project with ground floor retail uses including artist's studios, and residential lofts above.

Manitou Lofts and Shops

Staff has recently received, construction plans for a building permit application, for the balance of the approved development on the former GM Brake testing site.

Keithley Subdivision

After several meetings this spring, the City Council authorized staff to release the building permit application moratorium within this subdivision subject to the satisfaction of two financial conditions by the developer. Staff has been prepared to release the moratorium since early April, but the developer has not yet satisfied the requirements.

Crystal Hills East Subdivision

In May, the City Council approved the Final Plat for an 18-acre, 18-lot subdivision located east of Crystal Hills. Planning Staff continues to work with the owners and their consultants in anticipation of the initial grading and road construction that may begin this month.

329 Manitou Avenue (Building in front of Taos Village)

Staff anticipates the completion of this new mixed-use office/residential building this month. The owners are in the process of leasing office space on the first floor and apartments above.

Preservation Awards

In May, Staff hosted the annual Historic Preservation Honor Awards banquet at the Manitou Lofts and Shops site. Awards were presented for the new mixed-use building at 123 Canon Ave., the façade restoration at 807 Manitou Avenue, the re-roofing of the Soda Springs Park Pavilion and the reinstallation of the Eastern Archway.

Historic Plaque program

The State Historic Fund has approved the final layout of the 30 historic plaques that are now scheduled for installation later

this year. Please look for these plaques as you are participating in downtown events and in various tours - including the *Springabout* and *Artwalk* tours.

Code Enforcement

The Code Enforcement Officer's workload for the second quarter of the year has remained very active. During the second quarter, he has handled a total of 169 enforcement issues. These involve a wide range of issues including the removal of trash/debris and junk vehicles, the issuance of business licenses, handling of loose/vicious animals, and a wide variety of emergency assistance. Walt Perkins also serves as our Court bailiff two days a month and was instrumental in assisting the Public Services and the Fire Departments in handling the water backflow incident in Crystal Hills.

Internship

We continue to work with an intern (largely state funded) from the Colo. Cntr. for Community Dvlpmnt. assist staff in developing a list of drought tolerant trees, shrubs, and grasses for each of the three general planting zones in town.

Building Permits

The Depart's review of (BPAs) has picked up dramatically during the second quarter. We have issued 144 BPAs this year. The number of permits issued through June of last year was 127. Overall, these 2004 permits involve improvements of over \$220,000 and over \$9,000 in use tax collections.

Spa Building in its Hey day!



Photo courtesy Historic Manitou Springs, Inc.

Police Department

By MaryJo Smith, *Police Chief*

The second quarter of the year has been very successful! We have continued to make training and equipment the focus of 2004 as we continue to restructure the department.

Training:

The training highlights are as follows; Police Officer Training School, Internal Affairs School, Taser Training Class, Level 1 Accident Investigation, Clandestine Lab School, Re-certify Clandestine Lab, Humane School, Critical Incident, CIRSA – Winter driving and Records Release.

Equipment:

- Purchased (3) Tasers
- Received (10) Lap top computers from the Colorado Springs Police Department.
- Purchased (7) seven new 800 MHz radio's for deployment for reserve officers
- Purchased (1) gun safe to keep weapons for a police armory.
- Officers received the new Policies and Procedure manuals.
- Officers received the new City Personnel handbook.
- A dress uniform was implemented for special details and events.
- Shotguns have been deployed in the police units.
- Police Training Officer (P.T.O.) pins were issued to the training officers.
- Door signs marking each office have been installed within the department.
- Patrol information and training boards have been added within the department.
- Patrol officers locker room was cleaned and reorganized.

Department Programs:

Currently two officers have been assigned as new hires going through the new Police Officer Training Program. The program lasts 16 weeks. The department has three training officers. Funding for the South Central Region, under the State Homeland Security Program, received \$2,237,440 and the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program received \$1,190,232. This encompasses El Paso County, Teller County, Chaffee County, Park County and Colorado Springs. Manitou Springs, individually, will receive \$5,400 for 15 officers to receive training in Weapons of Mass Destruction. For one Supervisor to attend a Train the Trainer class on Weapons of Mass Destruction-Operations, we received \$612. Weapons of Mass Destruction-Crime Scene training for one Supervisor to attend, is \$204. There will be equipment available to all departments in the area as well as additional training.

Police Department received a grant for \$1,250 through the Colorado Department of Transportation for the "Click It or Ticket" campaign.

A grant for \$8,762 through the Department of Defense for night vision equipment was received. The grant will provide expenses for training in Baltimore, MD. (airfare, lodging, and transportation) in July 2004.

Through the Bureau of Justice the department received a \$1,559.85 grant for bulletproof vests.

The department is established in the law enforcement community as a partnership agency with Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

The department will be deploying the Police Reserve Unit in early July 2004. The Reserve Officers will be deployed in the downtown area on foot and on bicycles.

Miscellaneous:

Sergeant Chris Clements has resigned and is pursuing a career in international law enforcement in Iraq.

Sergeant James Marion will be responsible for the evening shift on a temporary basis along with supervising the Communications Center.

Master Patrol Officer Robert McPherson was promoted to Corporal. Corporal McPherson will be supervising the midnight shift.

The Manitou Springs Police Department responds to approximately 3,000 calls for service a year. These responses range from minor citizen assists and complaints to assaults, homicides, and illegal clandestine drug manufacturing labs. The Manitou Springs Police Department is a community oriented policing agency, and our officers strive to work with the citizens to better the community. Our department is actively involved in a proactive form of law enforcement, believing that preventing crime is one of the best services we can provide to our citizens. We are also relentless in our efforts to solve the crimes that do occur, apprehend suspects, and seek justice for all involved.

The Manitou Springs Police Department protects and serves the City of Manitou Springs with a population of approximately six thousand residents, and encompassing approximately six square miles. Throughout the late spring, summer, and early fall, the population just about triples in size due to the influx of tourists who enjoy the awesome views, fresh air, relaxed atmosphere, and many area attractions.

Swimming Pool

By Jacqueline Clark, *Aquatic Director*

This quarter has been very busy for the pool. Some classes have ended and new classes have begun. The middle school had 4 parties at the pool. The 6,7, and 8, graders each had their own party, different days of swimming and 110 children attended each day. The 8 graders had another party for graduation during the evening hours. It was a big success. Congratulations to all the 8 graders!

Manitou High School came in for 6 days in May to do some swimming to add to their PE classes. Their instructor had them swimming lap after lap and the children enjoyed the change and did really well. The staff enjoyed having all the groups.

The pool hosted a free day on a Saturday morning. Sixty people attended during lap swim, water aerobic classes and recreational swim times. Of course, fun was had by all that attended.

This quarter, the pool hosted a Pizza Night for families. Forty people attended this event. One price covered a recreational swim, 3 slices of pizza and a soda. Another Pizza party will be scheduled in July.

The pool has had several training sessions for all employees to get geared up for the summer. Classes included CPR, First Aid, Spinal management and back boarding.

The outdoor kid's pool was opened at the beginning of May.

The weight training class has continued throughout this quarter and will continue throughout the year. The classes have been full and have added a nice addition to the pool's programs.

The rummage sale that was a fundraiser for the pool raised \$2,500. This money will be used to purchase a new diving board so that the girl's high school diving team will be able to practice diving here instead of driving to another facility. The pool is very proud of this accomplishment. Thanks to all who helped!

Swim Lessons:

April: 35 children-Manitou residents

May: 98 children-Manitou and Ute Pass residents

June: 160 children-all areas

Patrons Usage:

January-June 2004-16,374 patrons used the facility. The facility was used by 1,630 more people in 2004 than in 2003. This does not include swim lessons.

Punch Cards and Memberships:

April: 68 punch cards and 3 memberships

May: 91 punch cards and 13 memberships

June: 104 punch cards and 6 memberships

Revenues have been up each month, except April, in 2004. It's looking like a good year!

Police Reserves Deployed

By Lt. Robert Swain-*PIO*

The Manitou Springs Police department, under the direction of Chief MaryJo Smith, has developed and initiated the Manitou Springs Police Reserve Officer Program. The department deployed the officers over the July 4th weekend. These officers began walking foot patrol and riding bicycles in the down town area and surrounding parks. The officers were in full police uniform with full sworn police authority.

The reserve officers, along with other members of the Police Department, were sworn in by Chief Smith on July 2, 2004. The general public was welcome to attend.

The reserve program has not been in existence in Manitou Springs since being disbanded in 1988. The reserve program will augment the duty officers, however, the program is much more structured and each member is required to be POST Certified. Each member is required to work twenty hours a month as a minimum, and will work

directly under the supervision of on duty personnel. Each member is a volunteer, which means they are donating their time to protect and serve the community of Manitou Springs. All reserve officers are required to obtain their own equipment at their expense. Reserve Officers will be held to the same professional training and work standards as the fulltime officers.

Chief Smith and the Manitou Springs Police Department are excited to once again sponsor a professional police reserve program and the department continues to employ the community oriented policing philosophy, volunteerism is a major part of the community policing and the community gets the benefit.

If you have any questions, please call the Manitou Springs Police Department; contact Corporal Rob McPherson, Reserve Police Supervisor, at 685-5407.

Public Services

By Kelly McMinn, *Public Services Director*



Photo property of City of Manitou Springs Public Services—Manitou Reservoir

Starting with April, the snow and rain has increased our available water to well above our current needs. Our storage supply is still full and we are receiving more water than we are able to use or store. This being the case Manitou still has no water restrictions in force at this time, other than a voluntary program, to try to get the public to use water wisely and not to waste it. The Manitou storage capability is actually so small that just a few weeks of hot dry weather can drop our lake level dramatically!

Manitou Water Department has introduced a few hundred “Amur” Carp to the reservoir. These “grass carp” are sterile and won’t fill the lake with “trash” type fish. They aren’t a sport type fish and won’t strike at a fishing lure. What they will do, however, is eat the algae and other water plants that would otherwise have to be removed with the addition of chemicals. This not only saves money (as the fish are cheaper than the chemicals) it saves us having to remove chemicals from the water at the treatment plant. This provides us with a more (organic) water supply in keeping with the values of our community. This program has been in place for a number of years with great success. Due to budget cuts this is the first year, in a while, that we have been able to add the fish to the reservoir.

Another watershed program that is starting to show promise is our reforestation of the west end of the reservoir. Some thirty years ago the building (or enlarging) of our dam involved clearing most of the trees from the west end of the lake. This has had the result of giving us some steep slopes consisting of decomposed granite. Each hard rain would wash the granite into the lake, thus reducing our storage capacity. With the help of our local Boy Scout Troop 18 and the purchase (at a much re-

duced price) of several hundred trees and shrubs, the gravel “point” at the west end of the lake is starting again to fill in with some new growth. This will soon reduce the erosion problems to assure the water storage capability will not be reduced.

Another “organic” program the Public Services department is undertaking is with the Mansions and Seven Minute Springs parks. We have contracted with two different companies that are helping us by adding horticultural polymers to the soil (actually injecting them under the soil). Another group is providing a liquid (natural) fertilizer that will be applied through our existing sprinkler system. We are, of course, getting all the required backflow prevention systems in place. Any time you try to introduce material other than water through your sprinkler system you run the risk of introducing something into your drinking water; something that won’t be happening in Manitou Springs. This program has been used successfully by the City of Vail, several casinos in Las Vegas, and is under trial by Pueblo School District. The department staff is undergoing some training on how the new system works and we are carefully observing the areas for results. Hopefully, this approach works as well as advertised. The organic methods, we feel, are more in keeping with the Manitou “holistic” culture. Who really feels good about letting their kids and pets play in a park that has all the little flags warning that chemicals have been applied?

One last item regarding the “recycling” theme. The Street Department has received a new “asphalt mill.” It is a rotomill attached to the front of a skid loader. It is a much smaller version of the big machines currently chewing up highway 24. One of the main uses of this machine will be to “re-mill” the streets to which we have applied the milled chips. Townsfolk will soon see the machine out and about smoothing out milled streets, without making them thicker!



Photo property of City of Manitou Springs Public Services—New Asphalt Mill